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2013 - June 25 thru July 9



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June **Sangha** e-Newsletter - a **LGBTQI**, Celebration of our lives, theme.

Source: Being Upright

Tenshin Reb Anderson Roshi



The Brahmajala Sutra says that "if a Buddha-child kills with his own hand, causes a person to be killed, helps to kill, kills with praise, derives joy from killing, or kills with a curse, these are the causes, conditions, ways and acts of killing.

Therefore, in no case should one take the life of a living being." This precept reminds Bodhisattvas of their compassionate vows to be kind and make every effort to protect and liberate all beings.

Killing is the most extreme expression of ignorance...

### Upcoming Events:

**Sewing Abbot's Robe with Tim Wicks** - for the Mountain Seat Ceremony, Oct 13th!: Saturdays: Jun 1, 15 & 29... @11:30am

**Dharma Talks** - Rev. Myo Lahey Saturdays: June 1, 8, 15 @10:15am

Hartford Street Zen Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Donations are tax-deductible

**Pulic Practice Schedule:**

**Monday**

**Guest Speakers Saturdays 10:15am** - July 13 - [Laura Burges](#); July 20 - [Rev. Tova Green](#); August 10 - [Rev Shokan Jordan Thorn](#); September 14 - [Ayya Santacitta of Aloka Vihara](#); October 5 - [Zachary Smith](#), [Anshi Daigi](#); November 2 - [Elaine Donlin Sensei](#) of Jodo Shinshu; December 14 - [Beata Chapman](#)

**Full Moon Ceremony** - Saturday July 27: Full Thunder Moon @11am

**Sangha Council** - July 20, 2013 @ 12:30pm

**Founder's Memorial** - Issan's Memorial is generally on the 6th of the month, & the memorial for Philip Whalen is generally on the 26th @ 6:40pm

**Study Hour** The Book of Serenity, we have books to share, feel free to drop in - Thursdays @7:30pm

**Next Board of Directors' Meeting** - Second Wednesdays of the month:  
July 10 @7:30pm (all are welcome to attend & observe)



Stonewall Riots 1969

6:00 pm Zazen (seated meditation)  
6:40 pm Chanting

### Tuesday- Friday

6:00 am Zazen (seated meditation)  
6:40 am Kinhin (walking meditation)  
6:50 am Zazen  
7:20 am Chanting  
7:40 am Soji (brief temple cleaning)

6:00 pm Zazen  
6:40 pm Chanting  
Thursdays Study Hour 7:30pm

### Saturday

6:30 am Zazen  
7:10 am Chanting  
7:25 am Soji  
8:30 am Drop-in instruction  
9:25 am Zazen  
10:15 am Dharma Talk  
11:00 am Refreshments/Social

### HIV Meditation Sitting Group

weekly meditation group for those living with HIV, their friends, families, community supporters & anyone who wants to join us! Thursdays & Fridays

10:30 am zazen  
11:00 am socializing

### Meditation in Recovery

(Men & Women)  
weekly meditation group for men & women in recovery from addiction

## Sangha Member Musing:

Being a gay man and describing what that is like in our society is almost like trying to pin down the present moment. The climate is changing so fast figuratively and literally each moment, new possibilities are constantly opening and the work for our equal rights seems exponential.

When I first came out I knew of no bars (where our community developed often secretly over many decades before) at that time and place that had windows. Most of these establishments were out of the way hidden in location and discrete in who they served as clental including some found down hidden dirt roads. No photographs were ever allowed and many bars had to hire security to help keep the space safe. I recall how my heart raced getting ready for an evening out and yet also how a grey cloud lingered simultaneously from being secretive and sometimes a feeling of disgust or like a criminal for who I am . This is how I had been taught to feel about my sexuality by our society.

We have made great strides in acceptance over the past few decades and now we face different agendas and desires for our community, a decline of our meeting places and businesses. It begins to beg the question of if we should fully integrate and no longer have a different culture or do we live more in a manner that embraces and carries forward the culture of our difference, just under the equally respected and valued treatment and protected rights? Do we integrate into heterosexual society as a mirror image or work to keep our culture developed as a minority and allow a different model of sexual expression?

For me it was important also to ask the question of how Buddhism views my sexuality past and present and how my life has grown and been as an experience in the body of a gay man. I have found a wide range of responses from Buddhist Leaders as expected, when they speak about homosexuality. I've read individuals of Buddhist clergy condemn people of my community and I gratefully see from those I am most influenced by of our country's Buddhist Leaders offering support and point to focus on the teaching as to not take or misuse our sexuality; and that misuse definition from these individuals excludes mutual adult consenting, non harming activity. It requires that we express sexuality without harm for living beings. Not taking from someone who is unable to give consent, not old enough, incapacitated or in any way to force or to take any actions one could see as having impure intentions or not based in a mutually freely offered affection is our guide some say.



As for how my life personally has progressed it is a long and ever changing path and perspective that develops and softens with age and practice. When I am asked my opinion on the community's agenda, it depends on the topic and the moment in which one asks. I think over all the answer of where we should go and what things we hold dear and continue to carry forward from our history is a mixed bag and needs careful consideration. Most importantly, I wish for us all to be safe, healthy and happy, to love and support one another, let go of unnecessary reasons to divide our common humanity and to allow adults to make non harming personal decisions about their own bodies and lives is my personal goal.

We of this Queer Community (LGBTQI) are equally valuable as all human beings and full great potential in every way and we deserve to be able to live in great joy, love and compassion while pursuing our path to awakening.

May our community continue to play a big role in the also fast paced evolution of Buddhism in these United States. May we all be happy, healthy and share the benefit of the Dharma, being part of our wider community!

**Happy LGBTQI Pride Month to us all!**

Fridays, 7:30 pm - 9 pm

## Meditation in Recovery

(Women only)

monthly meditation group for women in recovery from addiction First Thursdays

7:15 pm - 8:45 pm

**From our Resident Practitioners:** We are still seeking a dedicated, fellow resident practice student. [Visit here](#) to see more detail & PLEASE spread the word to folks we know especially those in the Zen or the wider Buddhist Community!



**Words from our Practice Leader:** Reverend Myo Lahey -  
Reflections in the Mirror of Practice [Queer Dharma Voices of Gay Buddhists Volume 2](#)

One way to understand being born in this human body is an invitation to discover who we really are. This is merely an extension of the infant's marvelous interest in its own little form, its amazement over its toes, its limbs, its mysterious orifices. To take the spirit of this visceral self-examination and carry it forward into adult life, there to apply it to the fundamental mystery of our being, is a brave and a powerful *auto da fé*, an act of faith, over and against what may at first appear to be the limitations of our senses.

For lesbians and gay men, it is possible to say that finding out who we are has a special urgency; indeed, our survival as whole individuals

**Hartford Street Zen Center** is a Castro neighborhood temple & residential practice center in the Soto Zen tradition of Shunryu Suzuki Roshi established to support & engage the Queer Community and its allies.

### **NEW! Women's Sitting group**

(Women only)  
Sitting followed by Dharma talk then tea and cookies. Mostly Zen. A safe space open to all women to sit, hear the Dharma & get to know one another. Free but Dana is always appreciated. Suggested \$5

Kicks off Tues, September 3rd: 7pm-8:30pm.



can depend upon it. Many of us grew up in a culture where our way of loving, which runs bone-deep in us and cannot be taken from us without doing terrible violence to our integrity, was ignored, denied or denigrated. In the face of such toxicity, coming to understand ourselves as fully human beings with beautiful hearts can be the work of decades. The Buddha Way can enable us to see our wholeness and the kinship of all beings, a kinship that can finally be expressed when we answer the question, "Who are you?"

Perhaps one day the movement of clouds across the sky, a snatch of birdsong, or the rattling passage of a streetcar ineluctably affects our habitual way of looking, such that, for a moment, we cease our restless scanning of the passers-by, the street, the horizon for some haven, some resting-place, our harbor of true belonging. Instead, our gaze turns inward, in the momentous gesture that the 13<sup>th</sup> century Zen Master Dogen called "turning the light around." We needn't close our eyes or run off to a monastery to do this, though that may help temporarily. There is a way of looking at passers-by while simultaneously turning the light around. Doing this reveals that the passers-by are trooping from the recesses of our own hearts, into the light of day, and on into mystery, in a pilgrimage of unguessable duration where each step brings the pilgrim to the place of respite and solace that he seeks, and the whole is as if circled round by an enormous pair of sheltering hands.



**Hartford Street History:**

**Issan Dorsey****August 1988**

When we can enter each of these new spaces, we can begin to look at truthfulness. "Why do we have to sit?" Tenshin-sensei once replied: there's no reason to sit. If you're completely sincere there's no reason to sit. I'm not completely sincere so I have to keep sitting to check.

Even if we're involved with unskillful actions, the one quality we should strive for is truthfulness. Truthfulness takes a total commitment to see all aspects of ourselves and our unskillfulness. If we can embrace the totality of ourselves we can embrace the totality of others and of the world. Our tendency is to think about things before we do them. Even when we see a flower we say: "Oh, what a beautiful flower." "Beautiful flower" is extra. Just look at the flower with no trace.

**From the Garden:** The Plum tree has produced fruit, ripened and some Sangha members have come and harvested a large portion and processed it... Look for it possibly in a future treat at HSZC!





### Ascending the Mountain:

The border of the Okesa/Kesa is ready soon to be pinned, then sewed, a great deal of conversation has begun around the food we will offer, the fundraising for this offering and other expenses and what the ideal mix is of treats considering the many varied diets of large numbers of individuals were expecting.

As always:

*Our deepest gratitude to all who are helping to continue to move this project forward towards the ceremony happening.*

**Hartford Street will be  
closed Thursday July 4,  
2013!**

Have a safe and happy  
Independence day!

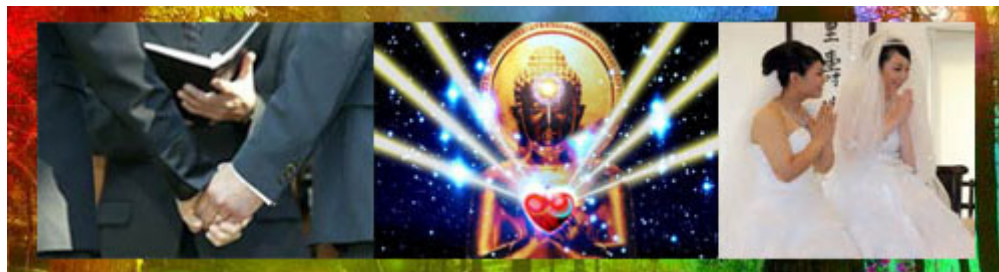




**TWITTER** Don't forget to visit Twitter for last minute schedule changes and to see if anyone is offering up a social "meet-up" opportunity when your looking for some social, outside of the ZC quality Sangha time!

### **Board of Directors - Developments:**

Reminder Hartford Street (as in the street we are located on between 18th to 17th street section) safety (SAFE) meeting is June 24th at 6pm, so a little extra vocal sounds practice hurdle for those in Zendo, but we know your up to the challenge or feel free to attend the meeting on the main floor!



Follow us on [Facebook](#)

Visit us online at [HSZC.org](http://HSZC.org)

check out our community events page for more events!

Get timely updates via [Twitter](#) as we

work to revive this fast update model and see if we can utilize for a meet-up social opportunities tool!



Practice Leader, Hartford Street Zen Center (HSZC) --- Reverend Myō Lahey



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**May this newsletter find you well & filled with equanimity! /\\**

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